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04 may 2023 daily current affairs - English

Appointments

World Bank President Ajay Banga

- ❖ Ajay Banga became the first Sikh of Indian origin to head the World Bank.
- ❖ World Bank President David Malpass has announced that he will step down from his post in June.
- ❖ Therefore, the process of selecting a new president for the World Bank began last February. US President Joe Biden has nominated Indian-American Ajay Banga for the post, hoping to lead the World Bank effectively in an unprecedented economic crisis.
- ❖ In this context, the World Bank on Wednesday issued an official notification for the appointment of Ajay Banga as its President.
- ❖ The announcement said, 'The directors have elected Ajay Banga as the president of the World Bank for a period of five years from June 2.'
- ❖ It may be recalled that Ajay Banga, who is currently the Vice Chairman of General Atlantic Finance, was awarded the Padma Shri, the fourth highest award of the Government of India, in 2016.



World bank

Established: December 1944

Headquarters: Washington, D.C., U.S

President : David Malpass

Reports and indices

RBI Report on Currency and Finance

- ❖ On May 3, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a report on currency and finance for the financial year (FY) 2022-23.
- ❖ The theme of the report is 'Towards a Greener Cleaner India,' which reflects India's focus on reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable growth.



2023 World Press Freedom Index

- ❖ India's ranking in the 2023 World Press Freedom Index has slipped to 161 out of 180 countries, according to the latest report released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).
- ❖ This ranking reflects a significant decline in press freedom in the country.
- ❖ The report shows that India's ranking has fallen 11 places since last year when it was ranked 150th in the World Press Freedom Index.
- ❖ The report was released by RSF, and it indicates a decline in India's ranking for press freedom. Nordic countries like **Norway, Ireland, and Denmark** ranked top three respectively while **Vietnam, China, and North Korea** were the bottom three countries on the index.





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REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS (RSF)

- 1) **Headquarters:** Paris, France
- 2) **Founder:** Robert Menard
- 3) **Founded:** 1985, Montpellier, France
- 4) **Type of business:** Nonprofit organization, non-governmental organization with consultant status at the United Nations
- 5) **Director General:** Christophe Deloire; (since July 2012)

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) 2023 Annual Report

- ❖ The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) recently released its 2023 Annual Report, which highlights the status of religious freedom across the globe during 2022.
- ❖ The report provides recommendations to improve the promotion of freedom of religion or belief abroad.
- ❖ India criticised this report after it recommended that the country be designated for the fourth year in a row that India be designated as a “Country of Particular Concern”.

USCIRF

- 1) **Founded** : 28 October 1998
- 2) **Jurisdiction** : United States
- 3) **Headquarters** : Washington, D.C.
- 4) **Agency Executive** : Erin D. Singshinsuk, Executive Director
- 5) **First Report On** : May 2000

Science and technology

Two new species of jumping spiders

- ❖ Two new species of jumping spiders have been discovered by researchers at the Zoological Survey of India.
- ❖ These spiders are similar to other members of the genus **Phintella**, which typically inhabit under leaves and barks of shrubs and grasses.
- ❖ Their discovery is a major contribution to **arachnology**, a branch of science that deals with the study of **arachnids**, which includes spiders, scorpions, and pseudoscorpions.
- ❖ Prior to the discovery of these latest species of jumping spiders, there were already **12 identified species of Phintella** that were acknowledged in India.





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Economy and banking

Airtel Payments Bank Introduces Face Authentication

- ❖ Airtel Payments Bank has collaborated with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to introduce face authentication for the Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS) at its five lakh banking points.
- ❖ The move comes as one of the first initiatives of its kind in India, where four



banks have partnered with NPCI to offer face authentication for AePS.

Tamilnadu news

Non-standard food: Introduction of separate app for reporting

- ❖ Minister of Health and Family Welfare M. Subramanian on Wednesday launched a separate website for the food safety department and a consumer grievance redressal mobile application.
- ❖ As per the directives of the Chief Minister, a website www.foodsafety.tn.gov.in and mobile app (TN CONSUMER APP) have been developed for food safety.
- ❖ The website is bi-lingual (Tamil, English) with 'Screen Reader' accessibility for disabled users. This website will contain all the information about the food safety department, especially the contact details of all the enforcement authorities, addresses of food laboratories, fee details in government food analysis laboratories, prohibition order of food products harmful to health, departmental orders and orders of court cases.
- ❖ A WhatsApp complaint number 94440 42322 has been activated since 2017 to lodge consumer complaints regarding food quality. Also, complaints are received through email unavupukar@gmail.com and action is taken within 72 hours.
- ❖ In order to improve this, a special application for redressal of consumer grievances named 'TN Food safety Consumer App' has been developed for easy handling by the public. This app can be downloaded on Android and iOS handsets.

'QR Code' to prevent smuggling of ration goods

- ❖ To prevent food smuggling and to provide quality food items, for the first time in Tamil Nadu, the 'QR code' system has been introduced using the food supply minister. Chakrapani said.
- ❖ There are 2.23 crore family card holders in Tamil Nadu. It has been decided to give them 2 kg of ragi instead of rice and this project has been started in Nilgiris and Dharmapuri districts.

State news

Delhi government launched a summer action plan to reduce dust pollution

- ❖ Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has launched an action plan to combat air pollution during the summer season.
- ❖ The main focus of the action plan is on **controlling dust pollution**, which is a major contributor to air pollution in Delhi.



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- ❖ 30 government departments are involved in the summer plan.
- ❖ Patrolling teams have been formed to keep a check on dust pollution, open burning of garbage and dumping of waste in industrial areas.
- ❖ At 13 air pollution hotspots, real-time apportionment studies will be conducted. A mobile air lab will be also deployed at each of these locations.
- ❖ The Real-time study will identify reasons for the increase in air pollution.
- ❖ Delhi government has also formed a standard operating procedure to prevent fire incidents at landfill sites.
- ❖ The government has procured 84 mechanical road sweeping machines, 609 water sprinklers and 185 mobile anti- smog guns to tackle air pollution.

National news

India to launch its own heat index next year to quantify heat hazard, generate impact-based heat wave alerts for specific locations

- ❖ India will launch its own heat index next year to quantify the impact of heat on its population and generate impact-based heatwave alerts for specific locations.
- ❖ India Meteorological Department (IMD) began issuing an experimental heat index for different parts of the country last week, taking into account air temperature and relative humidity to determine how hot it really feels.

Home Ministry decides to introduce Millets, Shree Anna in the meals of personnel of CAPFs and NDRF

- ❖ The United Nations had declared 2023 the International Year Millets as recognizing the importance of millets, and creating a domestic and global demand along with providing nutritious food to the people, at the behest of the Government of India.
- ❖ The campaign of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to promote Shree Anna will fulfill nutritional requirements of crores of people of the country.
- ❖ International Year of Millets (IYOM) - 2023 will provide an opportunity to increase global production, efficient processing and better use of crop rotation and promote millets as a major component of the food basket.

Foreign Ministers meeting of SCO member countries to begin in Goa tomorrow

- ❖ A two-day meeting of foreign ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) will begin tomorrow in Goa. Foreign ministers of 8 nations, including Pakistan and China, are expected to fly down to Goa for the key meeting.
- ❖ India, which took over the chairmanship of the SCO grouping in September last year, is the host this year. The SCO has Russia, India, China, Pakistan, and four central Asian countries - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, as its members.



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International Relations

Importance of security in the Indian Ocean region

A ground-breaking ceremony was held for the establishment of the Ekata Port of the Malé Island Defense Force in Malé, Maldives. The work will be carried out under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary plan for Development in the Indian Ocean Region with Peace for All.

This is one of the major Indian funded projects in Maldives.

Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh attended the groundbreaking ceremony for this project.

A joint report was later issued. It states:

This is a major milestone for the security cooperation of the two countries and the Ministers welcomed the joint military exercise and the movement of soldiers between the two countries.

Similarly, they emphasized that importance should be given to anti-terrorist measures, disaster management, cyber security and maritime security.



The President of Sri Lanka with the Prime Minister Chief of the Indian Air Force meeting

- ❖ In this regard, the Indian Air Force and the Embassy of India in Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo, issued a statement:
- ❖ VR Chaudhary, who is on a 4-day official visit to Sri Lanka, met Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena, Defense Minister Premita Bandara Thenna Gone, National Security Adviser Sagala Ratnayake and others in Colombo.
- ❖ During the meeting with President Ranil Wickremesinghe, VR Chaudhary spoke about further strengthening of defense cooperation between India and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ In a meeting with Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena, VR said that India is the first country in the South Asian region to help during emergencies. Gunawardana informed Chaudhary.
- ❖ On behalf of India to the Sri Lankan Air Force with a view to strengthening Sri Lanka's defense capabilities
- ❖ He provided AN-32 propeller engine equipment.





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Schemes

Telangana Govt to Implement Insurance Scheme for Toddy Tappers.

- ❖ The Telangana government has announced a new insurance scheme for toddy tappers called 'Geetha Karmikula Bhima.'
- ❖ The scheme is similar to the 'Rythu Bhima' program for farmers and is aimed at providing financial assistance to the families of toddy tappers who die due to accidents while collecting toddy from palm trees in the fields..
- ❖ Under the new scheme, an insurance amount of Rs. five lakh will be deposited directly into the bank account of the family members of the deceased toddy tapper.
- ❖ The insurance amount will be disbursed within a week of the accident.

